

Liberia

East Nimba Nature Reserve Forest Conservation Project News from the Field (July 2022–June 2023)

August 2023

Conservation International



Activities in the Previous Year (July 2022 to June 2023)

Last year, we visited the target communities to monitor project outcomes and sustainable development efforts. We also participated in a workshop on the REDD+ project in Nimba County.

Community visit

On June 12, 2023, the project team visited the two benefactor communities (Yolowee and Gbobayee) as part of scheduled field monitoring on the outcomes of previous activities and progress made. The pig pens in the two local communities remain unused due to their current condition, which requires repairs. Therefore at present pigs are not being raised and the community has consumed the 15 pigs from last year, either slaughtering them for local use or

selling them. The proceeds from these sales were used to support the operation of the elementary school in Gbobayee.

Vegetable cultivation and lowland rice cultivation are still actively being carried out, and the Village Savings and Loan Association (a mechanism for providing micro loans among its members) established by the project continue to be operated mainly by village women.

Last year, two Frontline Conservationists (FCs) were incorporated into the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) as park rangers. As a result, today there are 16 FCs patrolling the forest (8 in Gbobayee and 8 in Yolowee).

Workshop with stakeholders

We held a workshop in Sanniquellie, Nimba County on June 13, 2023 to create awareness and ensure active participation of stakeholders in the design of the Nimba REDD+ project, currently in the planning stages, based on appropriate information. There were around 50 participants drawn from local communities, county authorities, traditional/cultural leaders, NGOs/CSOs and academia, including communities benefiting from Daikin's projects.

The discussion centered around generating knowledge and understanding on (i) the effectiveness of previous and current biodiversity conservation initiatives, (ii) potential partners, (iii) potential stakeholders and their roles in the design, development, and implementation of the project; and (iv) potential activities that should be considered for the project. The feedback and information gathered from the workshop will be used to design the REDD+ project. The sustainable management of forest resources can be economically, socially, and environmentally beneficial. Also, the REDD+ project is expected to pave the way for future projects covering additional activities to protect nature in communities in the future.

CI Liberia took the opportunity during this workshop to raise awareness about the (i) importance of biodiversity conservation; (ii) conservation agreement model, and (iii) the role of Natural Climate Solution in climate change mitigation and adaptation. This provided an opportunity to share information.

This workshop made it possible to identify potential project activities, map out key stakeholders and determine the roles of different stakeholders in the design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of the proposed REDD+ project in Nimba.



Stakeholder workshop held in Nimba County © CI Liberia



The head of CI Liberia giving a presentation on the conservation agreement model © CI Liberia

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